

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
THE ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS RULE**

The Utah Water Quality Board is considering amending R317-4, *Onsite Wastewater Systems Rule*. The amendments are proposed to include new alternative technologies and strategies for managing onsite wastewater disposal systems.

Since 1996, the rule provides for three alternative technologies for onsite wastewater disposal systems. These technologies are primarily for overcoming ground water limitations. However, there are limitations with respect to slow percolating soils and shallow soils. A number of subdivisions, which have been approved based on the rules, existed then, do not comply with the rule currently in effect. The Division has considered very limited instances in the Southwest area of the State, and has developed a memorandum of agreement with the Southwest Public Health Department allowing them to permit technologies not included in the rule based on the experimental provisions of the rule.

Technologies are available to overcome the limitations, but they require an appropriate level of management before permitting. Since then, the Division worked with the environmental health directors and developed design and management requirements. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005, the environmental health directors and on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 the local health officers endorsed the proposed strategy for managing new technologies proposed to be included in the rule.

The proposed rule allows the use of packed bed media systems for producing a secondary quality effluent from septic tanks. Technologies include different media – sand, gravel, peat or geotextile to provide attached biological growth and filtration. Such effluent quality eliminates the need for soil which provided the treatment, and will enable installation of systems where adequate depth of soil does not exist or soils are percolating too slow.

The technologies will be authorized by the health departments provided they have received the authority to do so. The authority is granted based on consideration of management options chosen by the health department and implementation of ground water quality protection strategies. The proposed amendments will allow institution of operating permits, and mechanism for performance verification.

Other parts of the amendments will simplify the requirements for technologies already included in the rule.

Public hearings are scheduled to receive public input prior to adoption by the Board. A public hearing will be held on July 7, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 125, Cannon Health Building, located at 288 North 1460 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116.

Representatives of political subdivisions, governmental agencies, planning or civic groups, and all other persons having an interest in the proposed rule change are invited to attend and provide oral or written comment relative to the proposed changes. Opportunity will be afforded to all having a desire to participate. Written comments will be accepted at the time of the hearings or by mail until 5 p.m., July 14, 2005. If mailed, statements should be addressed to: Kiran L Bhayani, PE, D.EE, Utah Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870. Comments may also be facsimiled at (801) 538-6016.

Copies of the proposed rule and supplemental information are available by contacting Mr. Bhayani or Mr. Michael L Hanson at the Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114-4870, Telephone 801-538-6146. This information is also available after June 15, 2005, on the Internet at <http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/Rules/rulechange.htm>

R317-4-11 Public Notice 08MAY2005  
05:30 08MAY2005 KLB